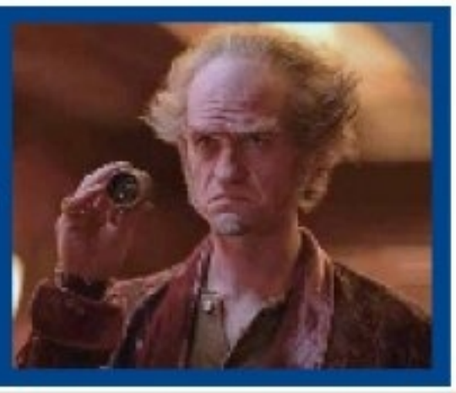
JOHANNA SCHNELLER

WELL THIS IS UNFORTUNATE

This Netflix series is giving me anxiety

metroLIFE



Ottawa metro

SOLIDARITY

... it's complicated

metroVIEWS

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017

High 0°C/Low -2°C Snow

GET BACK ON YOUR FEET

Ottawa law students are helping the homeless in a very practical way

metroNEWS

DYLAN C. ROBERTSON/METRO

Your bus ride to Gatineau may get a little crowded

TRANSIT

OC Transpo won't add service if Que. drivers strike

Dylan C. Robertson
For Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa commuters could face packed buses on OC Transpo routes that cross into Gatineau, where the local bus drivers' union has served a strike notice.

OC Transpo says it won't boost its bus service if a labour disruption occurs.

Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO) drivers could strike as early as 4 a.m. Friday, after the union's strike notice began a 72-hour countdown.

The union meets Wednesday to decide how to proceed. A strike could mean a total walk-off, or interim measures like refusing to work overtime, or a gradual escalation between both.

Unlike most transit agencies, OC Transpo and STO are partially federally regulated, because they serve interprovincial routes. The federal Labour Code prohibits any work stoppage until both sides meet with mediators Thursday.

"Our government respects and has faith in the collective bargaining process and we encourage both sides to continue talking," said Jean-Bruno Villeneuve, a spokesman for recently sworn-in Labour Minister Patty Hajdu.

Meanwhile, OC Transpo said it won't do anything to deal with an uptick of riders on inter-provincial routes 8, 27, 95, 105 and 293. Users of the STO's Multi card can pay fares on Presto readers.

"There will be no adjustments made to our current service levels, as well as no adjustments made to the routes and bus stops we currently operate in Gatineau," Pat Scrimgeour, OC Transpo's customer-systems director wrote.

Jocelyne Bégin with OC Transpo said that's because of a lack of excess buses and drivers, and to "respect the free collective bargaining process" by avoiding "any action that might be seen as interfering."

metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Thanks, Obama: Chelsea Manning to be freed in May **World**

‘Pretty much a write-off’: bus burns in street drama

TRANSIT

Passengers all safe and driver hailed for actions

Adam Kveton and Dylan C. Robertson
For Metro | Ottawa

1 Firefighters approach the burning bus on Tuesday morning. The $1-million vehicle was completely destroyed in the fire.

2 The fire started in the wheel well of the bus.

PHOTOS SARAH HATT

An OC Transpo bus was destroyed early Tuesday morning after catching fire, but all passengers were safely evacuated.

“It’s pretty much a write-off,” one passenger told Metro.

Sarah Hatt was on her way into work from Vars a little after 6 a.m. on route 222 when the double-decker bus pulled over in Carlsbad Springs.

Hatt recalls hearing a loud bang. “I thought that a car just rear-ended us because that’s how loud it was,” she said.

The passengers on the bottom floor were evacuated, but the driver said those on the second floor wouldn’t have to leave, Hatt said, though OC Transpo disputes this and said everyone would have been evacuated at the same time.

“The bus driver came to the top floor and said, ‘OK, I just blew a tire. You guys are probably fine, you can stay on the bus.’ But then we could smell rubber burning, so probably 30 seconds later he came back up and was like, ‘OK, you guys get off too.’”

Moments later, a passenger took a look at the left side of the bus and saw flames, said Hatt.

“We just backed off and (the fire) slowly grew bigger and bigger, and then the other tire started exploding,” she said.

Hatt said she didn’t feel she was in danger, though she noted her concern for several cars which passed the burning bus, despite the flames bursting out its side.

At an afternoon press conference OC Transpo’s director of transit operations Troy Charter said the loud pop happened after the bus driver had pulled over.

He said the driver felt “the bus was feeling a little sluggish” with no warning appearing on his panel, so he pulled over to inspect the bus. Customers heard a loud pop, so the driver evacuated the entire bus according to procedure — without leaving the upstairs passengers on-board.

“It was at that point that the operator asked everyone to get off the bus, and then they noticed smoke. A short time later, there was some flames.”

The bus involved, number 8010, slid off the road and crashed into a hydro pole in an April 2013 snowstorm, Charter confirmed. “I don’t have any indication to think it is related, but I don’t want to speculate, either. It’s too early to tell at this point.”

Charter said the city’s 117 double-decker buses each cost about a $1 million, and none have had a fire issue since their 2012 introduction.

“There’s no indication that this is a widespread or systemic issue,” the company said.

The driver tried extinguishing the fire, and Hatt said firefighters arrived within 20 minutes of the flames being spotted, ending the fire quickly.

Hatt said that the driver did a good job of keeping people calm and dealing with the situation. “He was really good … I think he did what he was supposed to do.”

She and roughly 75 other passengers caught the next bus into downtown about 40 minutes later.

OC Transpo is still investigating what caused the fire, with no immediate theories. Charter said they’re probing the damaged bus at a city garage “to have a real good understanding, to see what can be done to prevent something like this happening again.”

> “There’s no indication that this is a widespread or systemic issue.”
> Troy Charter

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Cyclist demands charges

When police tweeted no charges would be laid in relation to the cyclist, car standoff video posted on Twitter last weekend, likely no one was more surprised than Victor Jung.

He says he’s the cyclist shown in the video being physically pushed north through the Bronson and Slater intersection by a grey car.

What he said the video doesn’t show is the motorist at one point grabbing his bike and throwing it, and later slapping him across the face. He added police who arrived on the scene on Jan. 11 saw video evidence of this and arrested the motorist.

“I’m flabbergasted that (police) can let him go,” he said. “I had clearly stated I would like to press charges.”

Police, however, say both parties involved in the incident said they did not want to press charges at the scene. Regardless, Jung said he plans to contact police and have charges laid.

Jung, who has been cycling from the Quebec side of the river to Glebe Collegiate where he works for 17 years, said the incident began with the grey car tailgating him.

Once at the stop at Bronson and Slater, Jung said he looked back at the driver, who proceeded to drive into his legs.

“He looks at me and gives a facial expression as if he is sorry, he didn’t mean to move forward, but then he does it again. And again. And continues doing so,” said Jung. ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

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HISTORY

Argo docs on display

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Canada's Museum of History has acquired a rich collection of video, audio and documents from when our country moved to centre stage during an international crisis.

The museum now holds the Les Harris collection, which includes film and audio reels, interviews and documents related to the "Canadian Caper," when the Canadian government helped six Americans flee Iran during the 1980 hostage crisis. The story was the basis for the Oscar winning movie Argo.

In 1979 student protesters overran the American embassy in Tehran taking dozens of diplomatic staff hostage and holding them for over a year. Six Americans fled to the Canadian embassy at the start of the crisis and were sheltered there until a plan was developed to help them escape.

Les Harris was a filmmaker, who shot three documentaries and one docudrama on the incident.

Olivier Côté, curator of the new collection, said it was an important event that made people notice Canada.

"It shows Canada played an important role in a world event," he said. "Canada has always been a middle power in a way, but this time Canada was at the forefront."

Côté said the collection includes interviews with all of the major players in the incident, as well as a photo of the Americans at the Canadian Ambassador's home.

"It's the only known photograph of the Americans while they were hiding."

Oasis in the food desert

COMMUNITIES

Public Health project puts fruit and veg in corner stores

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

You won't find overbearing heat and sand in Ottawa's food deserts, but fresh, healthy food options are definitely scarce, especially if you're travelling on foot.

Ottawa Public Health recognizes 23 "food deserts" in the city, totalling nearly a quarter of the city's communities. These are "low-income neighbourhoods that don't have a grocery store within a one-kilometre distance," said OPS dietitian Krystal Taylor.

Often, the food options come down to corner stores with less healthy options like chips, ice-cream and candy bars.

Having local access to healthy food options at competitive prices is key to increasing community health, she said, and OPS is trying to jumpstart that effort with a new pilot project that supports local corner stores to provide fair-priced fruit, vegetables and meat substitutes.

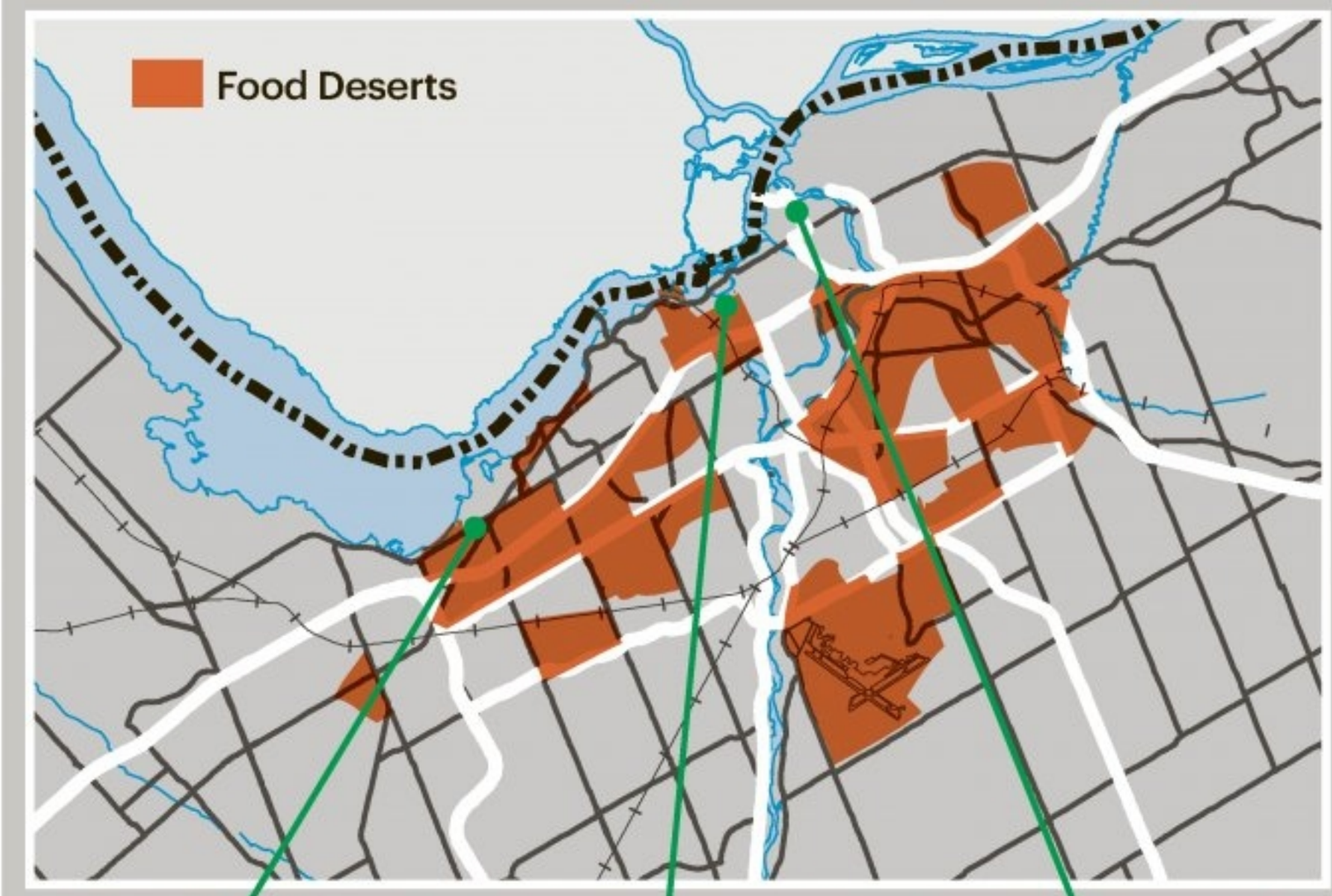
The project aims to have corner stores provide a minimum of three fresh vegetables, three fresh fruits, a variety of whole-grain products and two meat alternatives like eggs, beans or canned tuna.

The stores must also keep the food priced at costs similar to local grocery stores, said Taylor.

In return, the stores get marketing materials, advertising and resources showing how to "purchase, price and stock fresh produce," said Taylor.

MAPPED | Good food and where (not) to find it

This map shows Ottawa's "food deserts," areas with low-income neighbourhoods that are more than one kilometre from a grocery store.



> **Local access to healthy food options at competitive prices is key.** Krystal Taylor

The project is "currently finalizing details with a major chain to sell fresh vegetables and fruit in two to three additional stores," said Taylor.

"I think it's great," said Alex Williams, daytime manager at Lauzon Meats and Groceries. "It's good for the community."

Though the store does usually sell vegetables and fruit, Williams said the price has certainly gone down. "We were selling an orange for like 99 cents. Now it's 35 cents."

Other communities where the project is looking to establish partnerships include Carlington, West Carleton, Mechanicsville and Carson Grove.

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EDUCATION

Parents fight to save school

Parents at Regina Street Public School are hoping a last-minute proposal for a teaching partnership with the University of Ottawa is what's needed to keep the school's doors open.

"I think we are at the end of the process, and have said what we have to say and I think we're kind of done now and just have our fingers crossed," said Heather Amundrud, school council chair for Regina Street Public School.

Regina Street Public School is one of several schools board staff has indicated could close this fall.

Amundrud is hoping a new proposed partnership with the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Education could keep the doors open. Under the proposal, Regina Street Public School would become a lab school with Regina's teachers, who are considered experts in outdoor education, teaching the next generation.

"This partnership is just being proposed now, and we're hoping that if the school stays open, that it will come into effect in September," she said.

Regina Street Public School parents aren't the only one's making a case for their schools.

A petition, with about 250 supporters, was started on change.org to stop overcrowding at Agincourt Road Public School. According to the petition, if J.H. Putman Public School closes, there could be overcrowding at Agincourt.

"Both schools are already over capacity, this would mean expanded use of portables, and would place particular strain on already busy common areas," the petition reads. The petition proposes that the public school board allow Agincourt Road Public School and J.H. Putman to remain as is, until Agincourt has been expanded.

"I think everybody is trying to argue their case," Amundrud said of consultations and other efforts initiated by the community. School board staff and trustees are listening, said Shirley Seward, school board chair.

During the final consultation, Seward said staff gave an overview of what they've heard about the four families of schools.

"They heard the input, took it seriously and said that the recommendations would probably look somewhat different and that's what you hope to have in a good consultation process. You hope to get really good input and suggestions of how the original recommendations can be improved," she said.

"That's what I'm hoping to see when we see the report." MELISSA MURRAY/OTTAWA COMMUNITY NEWS

Regina Street Public School is facing a possible closure. MELISSA MURRAY/OTTAWA COMMUNITY NEWS

uOttawa
Faculté de droit
Faculty of Law
"Oftentimes you need a starting point of identification, in order to get other types.
Emily Cumbaa

University of Ottawa common law students Alexandra Pullano (left) and Emily Cumbaa launched the ID Project last October, helping the city's homeless access services. DYLAN C. ROBERTSON / METRO

Law students guide homeless to help

COMMUNITY

Project gives access to photo ID, social aids

Dylan C. Robertson
For Metro | Ottawa

University of Ottawa common law students are helping the city's homeless to navigate bureaucracy and access social supports.

Since October, members of Pro Bono Students Canada have been helping clients of the Ottawa Mission get their personal documents in order, so they can qualify for supports and even seek employment.

The students started the ID Project last October, after hearing about a similar pilot project in Toronto.

"It just seemed like a great opportunity, not only for our law students to have that direct client interaction and really help vulnerable people, but to provide a necessary service," said co-founder Emily Cumbaa, 28.

Many homeless people are transient, and have lost their health cards, birth certificates or social insurance number. Cumbaa says that creates a domino effect.

"One of the things most people don't realize is the complexity of the system," she said. "Oftentimes you need a starting point of identification, in order to get other types of identification, and so it can really cause barriers to access services."

Twice a month, two law students visit the shelter, supervised by another student and accompanied by a volunteer from the firm Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, because students can't give legal advice.

"Sometimes the clients will just present their general story and it's up to the law students and the lawyers to actually identify: what are the real issues going on here," said Cumbaa.

Getting people an Ontario Photo Card, which the province issues to Ontarians without a driver's licence, often helps.

Cumbaa said many more students want to help, and the ID Project might expand in the future. "They want to use their degree to give back to people who are vulnerable," she said, adding that it teaches interviewing skills and navigating federal and provincial procedures.

"You are able to reflect on the career that you may be able to have one day."

The ID Project takes place the third and fourth Thursdays of each month, and clients have shown up each time. Their seventh session takes place this Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m., alongside the Lawyers Feed the Hungry meal.

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CORRECTION

Gay bar in Ottawa
A story in Metro on Tuesday about the closing of the Centretown Pub, identified Swizzles as the city's last operating gay bar ignoring the Lookout, which also remains in operation. Metro regrets the error.

BUSINESS

Boutique hotel goes indy

The owners of a boutique hotel in downtown Ottawa are ending their affiliation with hospitality giant IHG and will start independent operations next month.

On Feb. 12, the 106-room Hotel Indigo will become the Metcalfe Hotel, marking the latest chapter in the property's storied history.

Patrick Quirouette, the director of sales and marketing, said the inspiration to go independent came to the property's owners.

Now, the proprietors of the soon-to-be Metcalfe Hotel are using Ottawa-based design firm 4té to guide renovations of the property. PETER KOVESSY/OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

PM Justin Trudeau fields questions at a town hall meeting in Fredericton on Tuesday. ANDREW VAUGHN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau mum about vacation

POLITICS

Watchdog investigating use of private helicopter

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau refuses to say how many times he's been to the private Bahamian island of the Aga Khan, the billionaire spiritual leader who has been his family friend since he was a young boy.

Trudeau's recent secret family vacation to the tropical isle has prompted an investigation by the federal ethics commissioner, after opposition MPs complained the trip — which Trudeau admitted included a ride on the Aga Khan's private helicopter — broke the federal Conflict of Interest Act.

Speaking to reporters during a stop on his campaign-style public tour in Fredericton, N.B. on Tuesday, Trudeau also refused to say how many times he has accepted rides on private aircraft owned by the Aga Khan.

"This was a private vacation," the prime minister said in French, repeating what he has said for several days about his willingness to speak with ethics commissioner Mary Dawson about the trip.

"My office is working with her office to organize the next steps and answer her questions," he said.

Questions about the trip have dogged Trudeau since his office admitted, after refusing to disclose anything about his vacation for several days, that the prime minister, his family and a few friends accepted an invitation to the Aga Khan's private Bell Island during the holidays.

In the face of media pressure, the Prime Minister's Office revealed that the friends on the trip were Newfoundland MP Seamus O'Regan, Liberal party president Anna Gainey and their spouses.

Trudeau has repeatedly justified the trip as a family vacation to visit a longtime friend. But the vacation has come under close scrutiny because of the Aga Khan's foundation in Canada, which has landed more than $300 million in government aid contracts since 2004 and actively lobbies public officers in Ottawa. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONSERVATIVES

O'Leary still mulling bid for leadership

Kevin O'Leary is refusing to confirm he's ready to join the Conservative leadership race Wednesday after months of testing the waters.

But the possibility that O'Leary, a businessman and reality television personality, will enter the race is being taken seriously by candidates vying to replace Stephen Harper. The CBC reported Tuesday night O'Leary would formally enter the race Wednesday.

Amy Mills, a spokeswoman for O'Leary's leadership "exploratory committee," refused to confirm or deny the report when reached by Torstar on Tuesday. Mills did confirm O'Leary is scheduled to give a number of media interviews to react to Tuesday night's Conservative French-language debate.

O'Leary vented his "frustration" that the leadership field still has 13 people vying to replace Harper. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MENTAL HEALTH

Feds fail on First Nations kids: Advocate

An outspoken child advocate is accusing the federal government of dragging its feet in implementing a funding principle aimed at ensuring all First Nations children are able to access necessary services.

At the heart of the dispute is Cindy Blackstock, a long-standing champion of the rights of indigenous children, and Jordan's principle — named for a five-year-old boy who died in hospital in 2005 as the federal and Manitoba governments squabbled over who should cover his home-care costs.

> "Mental health services are available for every other kid and they are not available to First Nations kids. Cindy Blackstock

Blackstock is taking issue with documents from February 2016 that show the federal government explored different options for applying the principle, which holds that no indigenous child should suffer denials, delays or disruptions of health services available to other children due to jurisdictional disputes.

Ottawa was ordered to comply with the principle in January by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal after a nine-year battle led by Blackstock's group, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, and the Assembly of First Nations.

In the documents, the government describes the various choices as a "menu of possible options" for abiding by the tribunal's ruling, including the cost and policy ramifications of each.

There remains a chronic lack of mental health services for indigenous youth across Canada, Blackstock said. She cited the example of Wapekeka First Nation, a remote northern Ontario reserve where two 12-year-old girls died by suicide earlier this month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Manning's sentence commuted

WIKILEAKS

Former Army intelligence officer to be freed in May

President Barack Obama commuted the prison sentence of Chelsea Manning on Tuesday, allowing the Army intelligence officer who leaked scores of classified documents to go free nearly three decades early.

Manning, who will leave prison in May, was one of 209 inmates whose sentences Obama was shortening, a list that includes Puerto Rican nationalist Oscar Lopez-Rivera. Obama also pardoned 64 people, including retired Gen. James Cartwright, who was charged with making false statements during a probe into disclosure of classified information.

"These 273 individuals learned that our nation is a forgiving nation," said White House counsel Neil Eggleston, "where hard work and a commitment to rehabilitation can lead to a second chance, and where wrongs from the past will not deprive an individual of the opportunity to move forward."

U.S. President Barack Obama commuted the sentence of Chelsea Manning, who is serving 35 years behind bars for leaking classified documents. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

> **We are all better off knowing that Chelsea Manning will walk out of prison a free woman, dedicated to making the world a better place and fighting for justice for so many.** Chase Strangio, Manning's lawyer

The actions are permanent, and can't be undone by President-elect Donald Trump. White House officials said Obama would grant clemency to more individuals on Thursday - his final day in office - but that batch was not expected to include prominent individuals like Manning.

A former Army intelligence analyst, Manning has been serving a 35-year sentence for leaking more than 700,000 classified government and military documents to WikiLeaks, along with some battlefield video. She was convicted in military court in 2013 of six violations of the Espionage Act and 14 other offences and has spent more than six years behind bars. She asked Obama last November to commute her sentence to time served.

Known as Bradley Manning at the time of her 2010 arrest, Manning came out as transgender after being sentenced, and LGBT rights groups took up her cause and lobbied the president to grant her clemency. She was held at a men's prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and filed a transgender prisoner rights lawsuit, although the military did approve gender-reassignment hormone therapy.

She attempted suicide twice last year, according to her lawyers, citing her treatment in prison. Manning has acknowledged leaking the documents, but has she did it to raise public awareness about the effects of war on civilians.

White House officials said the president was inclined to grant clemency to Manning because she had expressed remorse for her crimes and had served several years of her sentence. The officials briefed reporters on a conference call on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLOBAL DIGEST

AUSTRALIA

Minister defends end of hunt for MH370

Australia's Transport Minister Darren Chester said on Wednesday that experts will continue analyzing data and scrutinizing debris washing ashore from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in a bid to narrow down where it crashed in the southern Indian Ocean. But Chester declined to specify what kind of breakthrough would convince officials to resume the search for the missing airliner that was suspended this week after almost three fruitless years of searching. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OHIO

60-year-old gorilla, 1st to be born in a zoo, dies

The world's first gorilla born in a zoo, a female named Colo who became the oldest known living gorilla in the U.S., has died at age 60, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium said Tuesday. Colo died in her sleep overnight, less than a month after her birthday, the zoo announced. She surpassed the usual life expectancy of captive gorillas by two decades. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOVERNMENT

Number of Democrats boycotting inauguration swells

The roster of House Democrats planning to boycott President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration grew to about 50 on Tuesday in a protest of the New York businessman's policies and his repeated criticism of legendary civil rights activist John Lewis.

The Georgia congressman made headlines over the weekend for challenging Trump's legitimacy to be the next president and erroneously claiming that Trump's inauguration would be the first he will have missed since coming to Congress three decades ago.

In fact, Lewis had skipped President George W. Bush's inauguration in 2001.

Trump struck on Tuesday morning, as is typical, on Twitter: "WRONG (or lie)!" Trump tweeted, citing a 2001 Washington Post report that noted Lewis had skipped George W. Bush's inauguration.

Lewis' office on Tuesday confirmed that the congressman had missed Bush's swearing-in.

"His absence at that time was also a form of dissent," said spokeswoman Brenda Jones. "He did not believe the outcome of that election, including the controversies around the results in Florida and the unprecedented intervention of the U.S. Supreme Court, reflected a free, fair and open democratic process."

Lewis said last week that he would skip Trump's swearing in on Friday, telling NBC News that he didn't view Trump as a legitimate president.

"I think the Russians participated in helping this man get elected. And they helped destroy the candidacy of Hillary Clinton," Lewis said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" that aired Sunday.

Lewis' comments drew angry weekend tweets from Trump, who wrote that "rather than falsely complaining about the election results," Lewis should focus on his congressional district.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., also weighed in, telling a Milwaukee Fox television affiliate Tuesday that Trump "won this election fair and square" and that Democrats were wrong "to try and inject some kind of claim of illegitimacy on the dawn of a new presidency."

The number of Democrats boycotting Trump's inauguration continued to increase, including Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison, a top contender to lead the Democratic National Committee, as well as many black and Hispanic lawmakers. Top Democrats like House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York will attend, however, and none of the Senate Democrats said they'll skip the inauguration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROTEST

A federal appeals court says protesters planning to demonstrate against President-elect Donald Trump can't gather on key portions of the inaugural parade route.

The ruling Tuesday upholds National Park Service regulations that say most of the area known as Freedom Plaza and the sidewalks in front of the Trump International Hotel are limited to bleacher seating. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) President and CEO Evan Siddall addresses the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade in November. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cost rises to insure loans

MORTGAGES

Fed housing agency's move aims to cool market: Expert

Canada's federal housing agency is hiking the cost of mortgage loan insurance for homebuyers starting March 17, as part of new regulatory requirements requiring it to hold more capital to offset risks in the country's red-hot real estate market.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. said Tuesday it doesn't anticipate the increases will have a "significant impact" on homebuyers and expects the changes will add about $5 to a monthly mortgage payment for those with an average CMHC-insured loan of approximately $245,000.

But taken together with other changes recently put in place in an effort to cool down Canada's housing market, James Laird, co-founder of interest rate-comparison website RateHub, says the CMHC increase will have an effect on homebuyers, particularly those who will be purchasing property for the first time

"This is the latest in a long string of regulations brought down by the federal government making it more difficult to enter the housing market," said Laird, citing higher down payment requirements, higher qualifying interest rates and shorter amortization periods introduced last year.

CMHC says the new premium changes are calculated based on the loan-to-value ratio of the mortgage being insured. The size of the increase in rates depends on that ratio.

For instance, new homeowners who make a down payment between five to 9.99 per cent can expect an increase of $6.59 to their monthly mortgage if their loan is $350,000.

For the same loan amount, those with a 10 to 14.99 per cent down payment face an increase of $11.52 a month, while those with a down payment between 15 to 19.99 per cent will pay $16.46 more a month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AIR TRAVEL

Computer glitch hits Air Canada flights

Air Canada saw its operations disrupted by a computer glitch Tuesday that resulted in delayed flights and cancellations.

The Montreal-based airline said the IT system hardware problem was resolved by the afternoon, but not before it caused problems at airports and online.

Several Air Canada flights departing from its hub at Toronto's Pearson airport and Montreal's Trudeau airport were cancelled.

The troubles came days after Toronto-based Porter Airlines experienced a computer outage that forced a 2.5-hour ground stop Saturday. Five Porter flights were cancelled and about 400 passengers had to alter their travel plans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FORT MCMURRAY

Wildfire impact $9.5 billion, study finds

An assessment of the total financial impact of last spring's Fort McMurray wildfire is pegging the direct and indirect costs of the blaze at almost $10 billion.

The $9.9-billion figure includes the expense of replacing buildings and infrastructure as well as lost income, profits and royalties in the oilsands and forestry industries, said MacEwan University economist Rafat Alam.

It also includes early estimates on indirect costs such as environmental damage, lost timber and physical and mental-health treatment for residents and firefighters.

The estimate will go even higher, Alam said Tuesday.

Alam said it can take up to 10 years to get a complete picture of everything that happened and what it cost.

Earlier this year, insurers estimated they'd be paying out about $3.7 billion for damage caused by the blaze which firefighters came to call "the beast."

1,800

Single-family homes destroyed in the Fort McMurray fire.

But that's only the start, said Alam, who conducted the study for the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, an insurance industry research group.

"There are other losses like loss of revenue for the provincial government and municipality. There are costs for evacuation. There are costs for rehabilitation. These are examples of other direct costs that are not part of the insurance bureau estimation."

Using figures from industry and governments, Alam calculated lost oilsands production at nearly $1 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ALL WEEK: COMMENTARY AND IDEAS ON POLITICAL ACTION

JESSICA ALLEN ON PROTESTS OVER HOLLYWOOD CASTING

It never ceases to surprise that television and movie producers keep feigning shock and innocence when accusations of white-washing shower down on them.

The outrage over casting Joseph Fiennes, a white English actor, as Michael Jackson, an African-American pop star, in a new British satirical television series, Urban Myths, started a year ago. It crescendoed last week when Jackson's daughter, Paris, tweeted that the newly released trailer featuring Fiennes in facial prosthetics made her "want to vomit."

In an unusual twist, Urban Myths' broadcaster, Sky Arts, responded to the backlash and shelved the episode, in which MJ, Marlon Brando, and Elizabeth Taylor take a post-9/11 road trip. Too bad, because I'd really like to see Brian Cox play Brando and Stockard Channing channel Liz.

But I get it. What's surprising is that television and movie producers keep feigning shock and innocence when accusations of white-washing shower down on them.

This example, of course, is more complicated than most. Many pointed out that an African-American actor would've had to undergo just an extreme transformation — if not more — as Fiennes did to play Jackson.

We can't ask Jackson's opinion. But in a 1993 interview with Oprah, he was very clear about his racial identity. Winfrey went through a laundry list of tabloid stories — the oxygen chamber, procuring the Elephant Man's bones — while Jackson explained why they were nonsense. Then she got to the rumour about him wanting a white boy to play him in a commercial. "That is so stupid," he said, exasperated. "That is the most ridiculous horrifying story I've ever heard. It's crazy. Why would I want a white child to play me? I'm a black American. I'm proud to be a black American. I am proud of my race. I am proud of who I am."

I wouldn't be surprised if the folks involved with Urban Myths never saw that interview, though it was the most watched in television history. But it's impossible that they wouldn't be aware that casting Fiennes would be contentious.

It's easier to give old Hollywood a pass, as we do when grandpa Doug calls Asians "Orientals." Things were different back them: John Wayne played Genghis Khan, Laurence Olivier played Othello, and Katharine Hepburn took a turn as Jade Tan, a Chinese woman, in Dragon Seed.

But deciding to cast Joel Edgerton as Ramses II and Christian Bale as Moses, for example, in 2014's Exodus? Or Jake Gyllenhaal as the Prince of Persia? Or having a white man save jazz in La La Land?

On one hand, some of these movies wouldn't have gotten made without a bankable A-lister. (In the case of Aloha, Cameron Crowe's 2015 execrable film starring Emma Stone as a character of Hawaiian and Chinese decent, that might not have been a bad thing.) And the pool from which A-listers are drawn is very white.

Joseph Fiennes, as Michael Jackson, and Stockard Channing, as Elizabeth Taylor, appear in a scene from a shelved episode of the British TV series "Urban Myths." CONTRIBUTED

On the other, people in power could lead by example: "If eight white men — Wes Anderson, David O. Russell, Richard Linklater, Steven Soderbergh, the Coen Brothers, Quentin Tarantino and Woody Allen — were to commit to diverse casting, the Oscar conversation would be totally different," author and journalist Jeff Yang told IndieWire in a roundtable last year pegged to #OscarSoWhite. "Each of these guys can literally choose to cast anyone they want, with little opposition from money guys or studios."

Confession here: I used to get so excited when people would include Elizabeth Taylor as Cleopatra on Hollywood white-washing lists because it meant I could finally put my classics degree to use. "Cleopatra was an Egyptian pharaoh, the last actually," I'd say, smugly. "But she was Macedonian, descended from Alexander the Great's general Ptolemy."

More recently, however, when the same outrage surfaced over the idea of Angelina Jolie playing the Queen of the Nile, I paused.

I'm not sure sanctimonious historical arguments like my old chestnut about Cleo hold much sway today. When we talk about this type of casting, we're talking as much about how we live now as about the who, what, where and when of the subject. And anyone who rolls their eyes at that would be well advised to remember the wounded outrage of angry men throwing racial epithets at Leslie Jones because a woman put on a proton pack or those who felt there was no place for John Boyega, a black English actor, in The Force Awakens — and told him so. There are literally green people in that galaxy far, far away.

Whether a story takes place a long time ago or in recent memory, remember what William Faulkner once wrote: "The past is never dead. It isn't even past."

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

ACTIVIST WISDOM Know your history!

"Must we reinvent the wheel, or have we been in a similar situation before? Building a sense of history is important for today's activists. History isn't just what came before; it's a process of working through and evaluating things in our own contexts, with our own insights. From looking at earlier periods, struggles, strategies, gains and defeats, we can better understand how power is reproduced and find weaknesses and contradictions in the system." - Prof. Aziz Choudry, author of Learning Activism: The Intellectual Life of Contemporary Social Movements

VICKY MOCHAMA

All for one, one for all? Not quite

The Women's March on Saturday will bring together women — and men, FYI — from across the globe to protest Donald Trump's presidency.

From the outset, however, the march's effort to rally women echoed a history of fissures and fractures within the feminist movement.

Separately but simultaneously, two women — Bob Bland, a fashion designer in New York and Teresa Shook, a grandmother in Hawaii — conceived of a protest in the nation's capital.

Despite their eagerness, neither woman was a professional organizer. Further, the march was called the Million Woman March. Almost immediately, women of colour criticized the event for failing to be inclusive; racialized women with experience planning mass protests could have anticipated the obstacles. For black women especially, the name was a copycat of a 1997 march for black women which, it seemed, organizers had not known about.

The organizers quickly put women of colour at the top of the organizing committee.

But longstanding grievances had already been aired.

During the election, the Clinton campaign tied the candidate's trajectory to the 1848 Women's Rights Conventions in Seneca Falls. No women of colour were present at that meeting. (Only Frederick Douglass, a black man, was present.) By frequently citing this moment, Clinton evoked a history based on intentionally excluding women of colour.

In the activist era of the '60s and '70s, this brand of white feminism entered mainstream politics. Betty Friedan's Feminist Mystique may have given voice to "the problem that has no name" but she was also vocal in excluding lesbians. While white feminists campaigned for (some) women's rights on education, work and reproduction, they were, as a whole, nowhere to be found on civil rights.

Race, sexuality and gender are still contentious within feminism. You might call it in-fighting but it's really a push for accountability. Big or small, each conflagration among feminists is necessary to creating more a inclusive and effective movement. So-called infighting is essential for reminding us that modern feminism is still, and always will be, a work in progress.

When Lena Dunham complained that Odell Beckham Jr., a receiver for the New York Giants, had ignored her because she wasn't a model, black women called her out for perpetuating a dangerous myth about black male sexuality. Dunham — along with Amy Schumer, whom Dunham was interviewing about how great they both are — then asked Xavier Burgin, a black male filmmaker to talk the issue through with them.

Nearly 170 years after Seneca Falls, white feminists chose to listen to a black man rather than black women.

As the busses roll into D.C., remember that a common enemy doesn't quite mean we are all on the same team.

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metro LIFE
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

As she celebrated her birthday Tuesday, Betty White says the best thing about being 95 is that she's still employed.

Tired, envious and gassy: Welcome to the 10-day detox

Despite a lack of evidence they're good for you, detox programs are wildly popular. Wanting to get a healthy start in January after gaining 16 pounds in 2016, **Melissa Dunne** decides to try one anyway.

Cold-pressed juice cleanses are no longer in style. Lately, editors at fashion bible Vogue, and other trendsetters, are preaching slightly less severe measures. Detoxes that focus on preparing and eating whole foods are being hocked by everyone from celebrities to fit nutritionists and cookbook authors such as Joy McCarthy and Melissa Hartwig.

Hartwig, in particular, has gained a cult following — with her The Whole30 book spending 66 weeks and counting on The New York Times bestseller list. Acolytes of hers, and similar programs, are generally not allowed to consume a long list of foods, drinks, and additives for 30 days. Many programs also offer a 10-day, or even two-day, detox plans.

If you do manage to stick with Hartwig's 30-day program, her website promises it "will change your life." But, registered dietitian Andrea Miller warns people need to be wary of such promises.

"There is no solid scientific research on detoxes, it's mostly anecdotal information," said Miller in a phone interview from Whitby, Ont. "I advise my clients to look at the source and ask themselves: 'Does (the person selling the detox) have something to gain from this?'"

The nutrition expert also points out that there is generally no need for healthy people to do a detox program as our bodies already naturally detox via our kidneys and liver. Which doesn't mean Miller is staunchly against the concept, saying that if a program helps some people get in the habit of preparing and eating more whole foods on a regular basis, then that can be a good thing.

What's not such a good thing is the temporary nature of detoxes, she warns. Programs with strict rules means many adherents may white-knuckle their way through a time-based plan only to inevitably return to their unhealthy eating habits the minute it's over.

Beyond the end of January, Miller recommends setting some SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and trackable) nutrition and fitness goals you can reach throughout 2017.

Now that sounds like a smart plan most of us could stick to for longer than 30 days.

> **There is no solid scientific research on detoxes.**
> Andrea Miller, dietician

DETOX DELIGHTS Melissa Dunne's ten-day program mixed DIY dishes and adapted store-bought bowls. MELISSA DUNNE

GOOP OR JOYOUS? TWO DETOXES YIELDING SIMILAR RESULTS

Why Melissa Dunne's first 10 days of 2016 were a struggle

For me, last year was an *annus horribilis*.

The cherry on my misery sundae was that I ended 2016 exactly 16 pounds heavier than a mere year earlier. Admittedly, I had been eating too much ice cream to soothe my frayed nerves. So, in a bid to start this year with fewer sundaes and more smoothies, I did a 10-day detox.

For the first five days of 2017 I followed the plan from Goop Clean Beauty, written by the editors of Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyle publication.

The rules were, no: alcohol, caffeine, dairy, eggs, beef, pork, shellfish, raw fish, gluten, soy, nightshades, strawberries, oranges, grapefruits, grapes, bananas, corn, white rice, sugar, peanuts, processed oils, and processed butters.

Thankfully, I then consciously uncoupled from that detox for the remaining five days, following the rules in the new book Joyous Detox by Joy McCarthy.

These rules were, no: refined sugar, artificial sweeteners, dairy, gluten, peanuts, unfermented soy, corn, alcohol, coffee, and genetically modified organisms.

On both detoxes I had throbbing headaches; felt constantly exhausted; burned with jealousy when my friends gorged on snacks; and spent an inordinate amount of time on the ceramic throne. Mistakes? I made a few (like not realizing there is caffeine in decaf coffee).

In the end, I lost a measly two pounds. But, what I did gain was a renewed belief that I am strong enough to make this year better than the last.

That may sound a little corny to some, but after not being able to eat corn for a week and a half I'll take what I can get.

READ MELISSA DUNNE'S FULL DETOX DIARY AT METRONEWS.CA

CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS

Dolan, Orphan Black ahead of the pack

Montreal director Xavier Dolan's Oscar hopeful It's Only the End of the World and Space's human cloning series Orphan Black lead the pack going into this year's Canadian Screen Awards.

Dolan's French-language drama, about a dying writer who returns home to his estranged family, topped the film category with nine nominations. They include best picture, best director, best adapted screenplay and best actor for French star Vincent Cassel.

It's Only the End of the World is one of nine features being considered for a best foreign language film nomination at this year's Academy Awards.

On the TV side, Orphan Black leads with 14 nominations, including best dramatic series, best direction, and best actress for Regina native Tatiana Maslany. The Emmy winner is also up for a second award, for best actress in a film for The Other Half.

The awards honour film, television and digital media titles in 134 categories and represent voices from across Canada, said organizers.

"I just think it's pretty incredible that our motion picture category has films in four different languages," said Beth Janson, CEO of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, after the nominations were announced on Tuesday.

Other films with multiple nominations include the biopic Race, about American track star Jesse Owens, which is up for eight trophies including best picture and best actor for Toronto's Stephan James.

Tied with six nominations apiece are: Bruce McDonald's black-and-white coming-of-age tale Weirdos, Matt Johnson's fake moon-landing documentary Operation Avalanche and Chloe Leriche's Before the Streets, about an indigenous teen seeking redemption.

They're all up for best picture, a field that also includes: Louis Belanger's marijuana comedy Bad Seeds; Kevan Funk's hockey drama Hello Destroyer; Johnny Ma's Chinese taxi driver thriller Old Stone; Zacharias Kunuk's Arctic epic Searchers; and Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves, by Mathieu Denis and Simon Lavoie.

Xavier Dolan's It's Only The End of the World earned nine Canadian Screen Awards nominations. GETTY IMAGES FILE

The awards show will be broadcast live on CBC from Toronto's Sony Centre for the Performing Arts on March 12. Canadian comedian Howie Mandel will host. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL

This true American icon will Trump the new leader

Whatever Dante's Inferno type scenario gets unleashed this Friday when Donald J. Trump is sworn in as president of the United States, I have no doubt that the majority of the world will be crying into a large glass of something alcoholic.

Odds are Trump will be popping a few corks of sparkling wine from the family's eponymous winery his son runs in Virginia. It's unlikely you'll find a bottle on this side of the border easily if you're a supporter. They only appear to export their surprisingly decent tasting stuff to Alberta.

Better to indulge in a drop made by a true American winemaking celebrity like Robert Mondavi. The late Californian was an undisputed pioneer whose forward-thinking and class continues to inspire winemakers around the world.

His namesake 2014 Private Selection Cabernet Sauvignon ($15.99-$19.99) is lightly oaked and made from grapes grown throughout the Golden State. Rich, dark and chewy, it's ideal with red meats, and with the amalgamation in mind, a full serving of baloney.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

APPLE UPGRADE

Take a bite and add more Pazazz to your palate

Move over Honeycrisp, the next generation has arrived and it's full of Pazazz!

After 10 years of development, the new apple with the crunchy texture of its Honeycrisp mom and its very own burst of sweet-tart flavour is available from now until the end of February.

Deep red with a creamy yellow or white background, Pazazz has inherited the delicate cell structure of its Honeycrisp parent, which revolutionized the apple industry back in 1991 by combining a sweet flavour with a supercrisp, super- juicy texture.

Pazazz is not genetically modified, it was developed using traditional breeding methods. It is not being grown in Ontario because its breeders feel that, like Honeycrisp, it grows better in Nova Scotia's cooler climate.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Which of these soft Italian cheeses is hard on the fat counter?

An easy substitution between these two cheeses can make for lighter dishes.

PICK THIS

Tre Stelle Extra Smooth Ricotta (per 55g)

Calories 90
Fat 6g
Saturated Fat 4g

SKIP THIS

Tre Stelle Mascarpone (per 55g)

Calories 170
Fat 15g
Saturated Fat 10g

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent to an Arby's Classic Roast Beef Sandwich in fat.

Mascarpone is a rich cheese made from cream and is a favourite ingredient for desserts, most notably the Italian dish Tiramisu. The creamy cheese is also used in pastas, risottos, sauces, cheesecakes and as a topping for soups. However, its decadent nature means high amounts of calories, fat and artery-clogging saturated fat. Ricotta, made from milk and whey, is a much lighter alternative to cook and bake with; it has about half the calories and fat of mascarpone.

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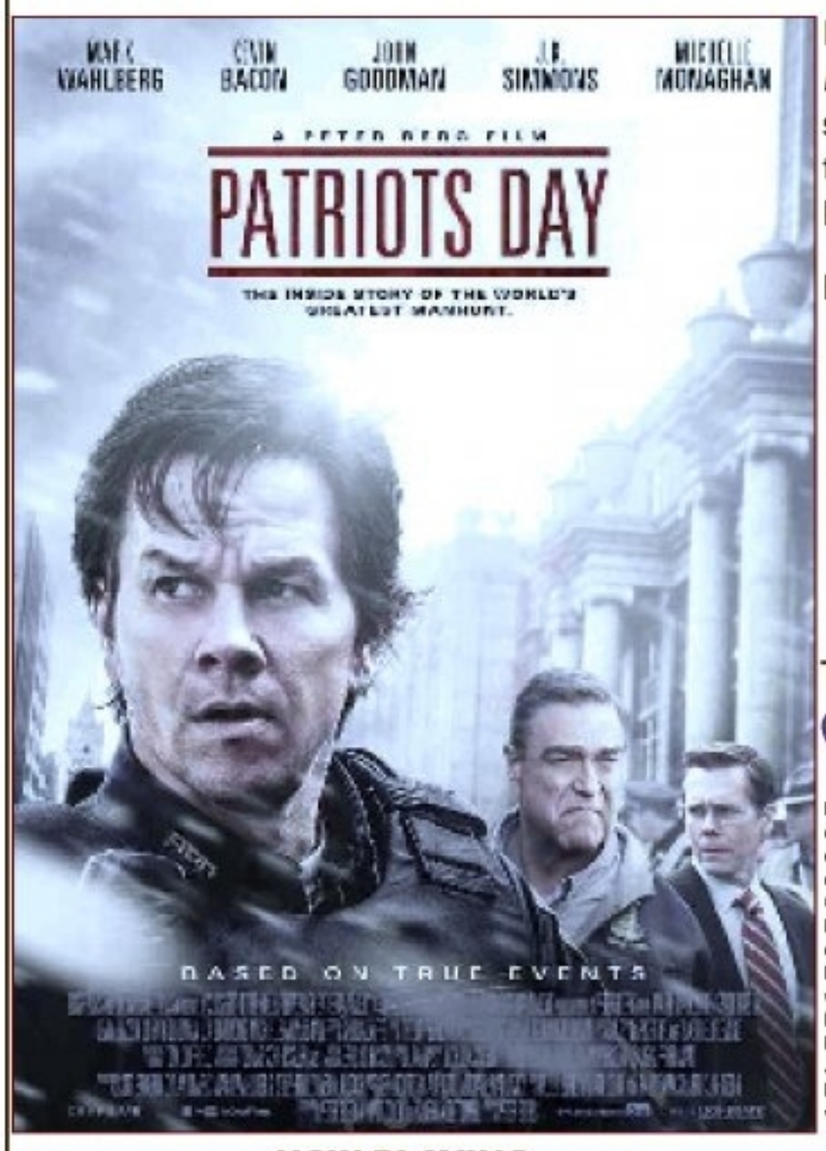

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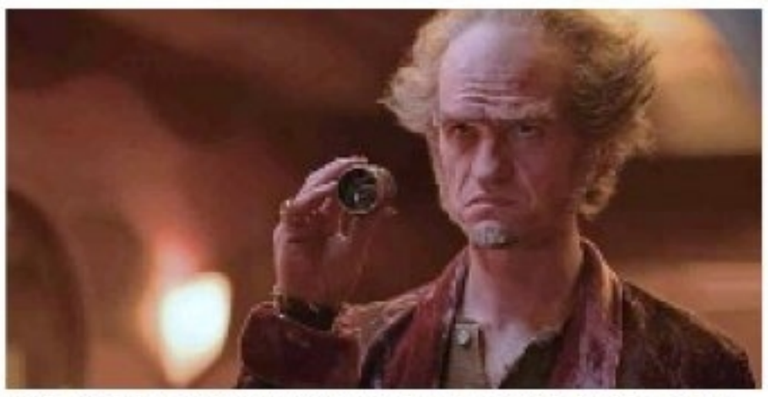
JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Unsettling...and made for our anxious times

THE SHOW: A Series of Unfortunate Events, Season 1, Episode 2 (Netflix)
THE MOMENT: "We're all frightened"



Neil Patrick Harris's money-craving Count Olaf adds to the sense of unease in A Series of Unfortunate Events. CONTRIBUTED

The brilliant, plucky Baudelaire children — tweens Violet (Malina Weissman) and Klaus (Louis Hynes), and baby Sunny (Presley Smith) — believe their parents died in a fire. They've been taken in — kidnapped — by Count Olaf (Neil Patrick Harris), an evil actor who craves their fortune. Behind the scenes, mysterious good guys Jacquelyn (Sara Canning) and Gustav (Luke Camilleri) plot via phone.

"Dr. Montgomery was supposed to be their new guardian," Gustav says. "What went wrong?"

"Mr. Poe listened to the advice of a consultant," Jacquelyn says.

"A consultant!" Gustav exclaims. "Dear God, why would anyone listen to a consultant! The children must be frightened."

"We're all frightened, Gustav," Jacquelyn replies.

Meanwhile in their attic chamber, Klaus and Violet talk. "Sunny must be so frightened," Klaus says.

"We're all frightened, Klaus," Violet replies.

I'm ambivalent about the Lemony Snicket books this series is based on (by Daniel Handler, who also writes the show). The writing is clever, but smug about its cleverness. The pileup of unfortunate events, which are frustratingly preventable, make me anxious. The message — that pluck and resourcefulness can ease, though not always conquer, depressing situations — is true, but sad. I'm having the same struggles with the series.

I do, however, marvel at how prescient it feels for this anxious moment in time. Uninformed people acting in error because they listened to the wrong advice? Marginalized good guys wondering how to fix things? A conscienceless money-grubber who kidnapped us when we were meant to have a proper, qualified guardian?

We're all frightened, world.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

National celebration, local impacts

CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

Ottawa set to celebrate and benefit from its many anniversary projects

Sean Deasy

Ottawa is ready for its close up.

This is a big year for the entire country. And, as Canada celebrates 150 years as a nation, Canadians are looking to their capital as the focal point of the party.

Organizers are certainly answering the call. Ottawa 2017, the group supported by a growing community of partners at the local, regional and national levels, is creating a year's worth of big, bold and moving experiences to complement national celebrations and annual festivals.

One million trees will be planted in Ottawa this year as part of Canada's 150th celebrations. ISTOCK

From Junos week in late March to the C-150 Party on Canada Day to the 105th Grey Cup and Festival in November, the year is packed with marquee moments. And the festivities are by no means restricted to the city limits. Agri 150, for instance, will see more than 20 unique one-day outdoor events throughout the year in communities across the Ottawa Valley, from Stittsville to Rideau Goulbourn.

And while larger-scale, signature events will animate the entire region, there is a conscious effort to energize Ottawa's neighbourhoods for the long term — specifically, initiatives aimed at forever changing the capital's landscape.

Notably, this year one million trees will be planted to celebrate Canada's natural environment, including special Canada 150 Groves of Maple in each ward. As well, arts and culture will be fêted with the opening of the new Ottawa Art Gallery and the redeveloped Arts Court.

While visitors to the region — a 20 per cent increase in tourism is expected to bring more than $230 million to the local economy — will be undoubtedly be dazzled, it is residents who will be most impacted.

"It's easy in our busy lives to sometimes take for granted that we live in the nation's capital," says Wellington West resident Trevor Hegge, who's looking forward to enjoying a wide range of celebrations with his family. "The likes of Remembrance Day and Canada Day bring our nationhood into sharp focus each year, but in 2017 we'll have events that will be an ongoing reflection of who we are as Canadians. I think it will resonate with all of us, and with kids in particular."

That's certainly the intention. After all, the celebrations won't cease as the calendar turns to 2018. "We are doing these things because Ottawa 2017 isn't a celebration of our past," says Mayor Jim Watson. "It is a celebration of our future. It will leave an enduring legacy — one of excitement, opportunity and prosperity."

> **We'll have events that will be an ongoing reflection of who we are as Canadians**
> Wellington West resident Trevor Hegge

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Birthday celebrations officially get underway

OTTAWA 2017

Next major event is Red Bull Crashed Ice on the Rideau Canal

Jen Traplin

After years of planning, the Ottawa 2017 festivities celebrating Canada's 150th birthday are officially underway.

Behind each step of that planning process was Guy Laflamme, executive director of the Ottawa 2017 Bureau, who admits he's thrilled to now be able to watch his vision come to life.

"When I wrote the overall plan and listed all the concepts that I proposed in the summer of 2014, I was hoping, at best, that maybe half the plan would become reality but the entire plan is now moving forward," he explains.

"We are going to be associated with — in terms of producing, co-producing, facilitating or partly funding — over 250 activities throughout the year so it's a big undertaking but, at the same time, very exciting. I'm pinching myself every day to make sure that I'm not dreaming."

While more than a dozen official Ottawa 2017 events will be taking place over the next few weeks, the Bureau's next major event is Red Bull Crashed Ice, which will see ice cross downhill skaters racing down the locks of the Rideau Canal.

"When people see the course being built, when they see how spectacular it will be to have those competitors going in and out of the locks and the backdrop of the Chateau Laurier, Parliament Hill and the Museum of History, that event will be just out of this world," Laflamme says.

Rounding out Ottawa 2017's winter programming is the Stanley Cup Tribute, a celebration of three hockey milestones — the 125th anniversary of the Stanley Cup, the centennial of the National Hockey League and the Ottawa Senator's 25th season. This four-day celebration of Canada's game gives hockey fans a chance to have their picture taken with the Stanley Cup, meet NHL alumni and attend the ground-breaking ceremony for a new Stanley Cup monument on Sparks Street.

Ottawa 2017's spring calendar kicks off with JUNO Week, which culminates in the 46th Annual JUNO Awards at the Canadian Tire Centre.

Red Bull Crashed Ice will see ice cross downhill skaters racing down the Rideau Canal. CONTRIBUTED

COMING UP

Red Bull Crashed Ice
Rideau Canal Locks
March 3 and 4

Stanley Cup Tribute
Various venues
March 15 to 18

JUNO Week and JUNO Awards
March 27 to April 2

For more information, go to ottawa2017.ca.

Agri 150 is a series of unique, one-day outdoor events in Ottawa's rural wards. CONTRIBUTED

CELEBRATE

Agri 150 will move events outside the city core

While many of the official Ottawa 2017 events are taking place in the heart of the city, the spotlight will also shine on rural Ottawa throughout the year.

Agri 150 is a series of unique, one-day outdoor events in Ottawa's rural wards — Stittsville, Cumberland, West Carleton-March, Osgoode and Rideau Goulbourn — developed by the Ottawa 2017 Bureau. Some will feature winery tours with local authors, others will include cycle tours or a rural fair experience.

"The plan is to get as close to what we can experience in Prince Edward County as we can," says Ottawa 2017 executive director Guy Laflamme.

"We are going to develop a series of 20 to 25 different offerings integrating performing arts with the discovery of local produce but really crank up the volume in terms of innovative, artistic concepts."

On Wednesday, Ottawa 2017 will be announcing the first Agri 150 offering, which will take place in early February (something to keep in mind for Valentine's Day, perhaps).

While there will be events taking place throughout 2017 as part of the yearlong celebration of Canada's 150th here in the Nation's Capital, Laflamme's goal is to create programs that will continue well after the party ends.

"Part of the goal is to make sure that the program elements that we develop can be sustained beyond 2017 and I think Agri 150 is a good example of that," he says.

"Ottawa has an exceptional agricultural capacity and a unique quality to some of the products that are developed and grown here, as well as the expertise that's been developed, in terms of environmentally sustainable approaches to farming, technological applications in farming operations and the top notch quality of products that are grown here. Hopefully this will be the start of a new tradition,"

Keep checking the Ottawa 2017 website for more details on Agri 150 events, including ticket information.

JEN TRAPLIN

metro WHEELS
Your essential daily news
Volkswagen ID Buzz Concept debuts as microbus of the future

All the right proportions

REVIEW

Solid looks, solid ride, but where's the AWD?

Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

Tiny crossovers are the hottest thing in cars right now, and any automaker that doesn't have one is really behind the times.

Instead of putting a huge amount of dollars into making its own small crossover, Infiniti is piggybacking on a Mercedes platform and has come up with the QX30.

The tester here is the 2017 Infiniti QX30 Sport model, which is the topline model that comes packed with performance upgrades and almost all the features drivers want. More on that later.

I prefer the look of the Infiniti model over the GLA it's based on. The QX30 is much more stylish, a lot less generic, and it definitely looks more modern. The GLA has a beefier, boxier and more muscular look, but I like the swoopy lines of the Infiniti better.

The problem with that pretty design is that practicality takes a hit in terms of cargo capacity, room for rear passengers and sightlines. One of the biggest drawbacks of the QX30 is that it's really hard to see out of. The blind spots are huge, the windows are tiny, and even the windshield is so swept back that it doesn't give drivers a lot to work with.

Luckily this QX30 Sport, which is the fully loaded top of the line model, is equipped with a rear-view camera along with a top-down 360-degree view camera that makes parking and squeezing into tight places much easier.

Although the seven-speed dual clutch transmission gets confused sometimes at lower speeds and can shift abruptly now and then, it's not a deal breaker.

The QX30 is powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine that outputs 208 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. That's plenty to get the crossover moving, but the engine isn't the smoothest at low speeds and it displays some turbo lag. At highway speeds, however, the engine exhibits Ryan Gosling smoothness. Very little noise and vibration make it into the cabin during highway drives.

This Sport model gets no power upgrades over the regular QX30, but it does get better brakes and a suspension that's tuned for better handling. That sportier suspension definitely makes the ride in the city more choppy, but it does mean that it's better in the corners, which is an OK compromise.

The weird thing is that this top of the line QX30 Sport isn't available with all-wheel drive, which seems like a missed opportunity. Buyers have to level down to get all-wheel drive. This was likely a move to keep the price in check, especially because this Sport model has so many other features, I can imagine it getting pretty expensive if it had all-wheel-drive.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 INFINITI QX30 SPORT

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.0L turbo 4-cylinder
Output: 208 hp, 258 lb-ft of torque
Transmission: Seven-speed dual-clutch auto
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 9.7 city, 7.1 hwy
Price: Sport model starts at $46,490

LOVE IT
- Great driving dynamics
- Stylish look
- Smooth highway driving

LEAVE IT
- Can get pricey
- Lack of AWD on topline model
- Poor sightlines

ROUND UP

These cars are surprisingly fun and affordable

Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

Here's the thing about fun cars: They don't always have to be fast.

Sure, a good turn of speed is always appreciated, but driving enjoyment doesn't hinge on it. Luckily, there are plenty of affordable options on the market that can provide some entertainment this side of the speed limit. And so without further ado, here are, in no particular order, five cars that may not slay with speed, but do offer a surprising bit of fun behind the wheel.

Subaru Impreza
The new Impreza easily makes this list for its suddenly smile-inducing ways. Despite its shared bloodlines with the fun-defining WRX and STI models the Impreza has long been anything but exciting, doing little to impress when the turns tighten. That all changes in its fifth generation, with a stiff new chassis and revised suspension setup making a world of difference. Add in its reasonable price — the torque-vectoring-equipped Sport version is priced at $24,395 for a sedan and $25,295 for a hatch — and the Impreza is frugal and fun.

Mazda6
Of all the midsize sedans on the market, Mazda's offering may be the most engaging of the bunch. Sure, its four-cylinder engine can feel a bit underpowered at times, with only 184 horsepower and 185 lb-ft of torque to work with, but the Mazda6 has plenty else going for it. A rigid chassis and sporty suspension more than make up for what it lacks in pure power, leading to plenty of thrills on winding roads. The car's pricing provides another perk, with the manual-equipped Mazda6 starting at just $26,525.

HYBRID HOOPLA

Honda Accord Hybrid
The electrified Accord makes the list not just as an obligatory hybrid, but because it is actually capable of some semblance of fun in its second generation.

Honda Fit
A roomy cabin and clever configurability are just two of the many reasons this wee wagon outshines the competition. And while the Fit isn't fast, it's definitely fun. Get up to speed by squeezing all 130 horsepower and 114 lb-ft of torque out of its 1.5-litre engine and the Fit feels firm and unfurrowed. It's also easily the most inexpensive car on this list, starting at $14,950.

Volkswagen Beetle
"Smiles for miles" is a great way to describe what the Beetle brings to the table. That it rides on a platform that once underpinned the GTI certainly helps make a case for this retro-inspired ride's fun factor. A taut chassis and wheels pushed close to all four corners allow the quintessential compact to be tossed into a corner and live to tell the tale, while responsive handling give it a go kart–like responsiveness. It's also not a pricey proposition, with the Beetle hardtop starting at just $19,990 in Canada.

Five concept cars that debuted in Detroit

CAR SHOWS

Less flash and variety than years past

Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

The Audi Q8 concept SUV is unveiled during the 2017 North American International Auto Show in Detroit. It was one of only five concept vehicles to debut at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show. JIM WATSON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The 2017 Detroit Auto Show was not the most exciting one in history, but it's really a sign of the times.

Crazy, pie-in-the-sky concept cars are getting tougher and tougher for automakers to justify because they cost a lot of money to make and if they don't preview an upcoming or future model, it's not enough to just create one for the sake of making a splash.

In the past, automakers used to make really flashy, wild concepts just for fun or to one-up each other, but the can't really do that these days of austere budgets and cutbacks. There weren't that many concept car debuts at the North American International Auto Show this year, as many of the cool ones like the Subaru Viziv-7 and Lexus UX, among others, already debuted late last year, even if they were present at this show.

Here are the Top Five (and only five, actually) concept car debuts at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show.

Lightning McQueen

OK, so this isn't really a concept vehicle, but the star of Disney/Pixar's Cars movie franchise made an appearance at the Detroit Auto Show this year. The timing of Lightning McQueen's appearance coincides with the release of the new trailer for Cars 3.

Nissan VMotion 2.0 Concept

This Nissan concept mainly exists to preview the Japanese automaker's plans for its autonomous driving technology, although it also hints at what its next Maxima family sedan could look like. Nissan says this sharp electric sedan concept should be capable of fully autonomous driving and will be totally connected to make life for busy professionals easier.

Volkswagen ID Buzz Concept

As a modern interpretation of the hippie microbus from the 1960s and '70s, this Volkswagen concept merges modern and retro in a cute and quirky package.

This ID Buzz concept is fully autonomous and all electric, and features a reconfigurable and swanky interior. It's not the first time Volkswagen has come out with a microbus concept, but that doesn't take away from how much we like this one.

Infiniti QX50 Concept

The Infiniti QX50 Concept might the one of the prettiest crossovers we have ever seen. Instead of the super aggressive lines and crazy angles of most SUVs these days, the Infiniti has a swoopy, beautiful design. The best part is that 90 per cent of the exterior design for this concept will carry over to the production model, which is coming soon.

Audi Q8 Concept

Taking our top spot for the best concept debut at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show is the Audi Q8 Concept, which previews a new full-size coupe SUV offering that will be produced soon. As one of the best-looking "coupe SUVs" out there, this one manages to have proper proportions and a sharp design.

More importantly, this concept is an e-Tron, which means it's a plug-in hybrid with a combined system output of 442 horsepower and a stout 516 pound-feet of torque. Total range on a full tank of gas and a full charge is said to be 999 kilometres.

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metro SPORTS

Tim Raines could become just the fourth player to be elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in his final year of eligibility on Wednesday

Looks like Bautista is staying in Toronto

MLB

Blue Jays not keen on losing another star after Edwin exit

Jays' Jose Bautista celebrates with fans after the Jays beat the Texas Rangers 7-6 during the ALDS last year. It looks like the slugger will be staying in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS/FRANK GUNN

The Toronto Blue Jays already lost one of their faces of the franchise this off-season. It appears the team has made sure that Jose Bautista will not follow Edwin Encarnacion's lead.

According to multiple reports Tuesday, Bautista will return to the Blue Jays next season, agreeing to a one-year deal worth US$18 million. The contract reportedly includes two mutual option years that if exercised, could make the deal worth $60 million.

Neither the team nor Bautista's agent Jay Alou would comment on the reports. Some of Bautista's teammates didn't wait for a formal announcement, which won't come before Bautista successfully completes a physical, to celebrate his return.

"Put them hands up! JoeyBats is back!!! JoeyBats19," second baseman Devon Travis tweeted on Tuesday afternoon.

"Told y'all. Lol JoeyBats19," tweeted right-hander Marcus Stroman. Bautista, a six-time all-star, hit 22 homers and had 69 RBIs last year but injuries limited him to just 116 games. He signed a US$65-million, five-year deal in 2011 and the Blue Jays picked up a $14-million team option last season.

Bautista rejected the team's $17.2-million qualifying offer last fall, which ensured Toronto would receive compensation if he signed elsewhere as a free agent. In the end, it appears both sides have circled back in what could be a good deal for all involved.

The veteran outfielder's return would certainly help ease the pain of losing one of the game's top hitters in Encarnacion. The Blue Jays were interested in re-signing Encarnacion, but he eventually signed a three-year deal with the Cleveland Indians.

A return to the Jays would also allow Bautista to show that he's still one of the sport's top players with a chance to maximize the reported deal. The Blue Jays, meanwhile, would fill a need in the outfield, bring back a core member of their offence and potentially reap the benefits of a slugger who is motivated to perform.

$60M

Amount that Bautista's deal could rise to over 3 years as their are two mutual option years.

The Blue Jays are coming off a second straight appearance in the American League Championship Series but have had a fairly quiet off-season. Toronto signed slugger Kendrys Morales, utilityman Steve Pearce and prospect Lourdes Gurriel Jr., but failing to bring back the popular Encarnacion did not go over well in the Ontario capital.

Bautista, 36, would bring some pop to a lineup that will miss Encarnacion, who hit 42 homers and 127 RBIs last season and was very consistent in recent years. Toronto's corner outfield positions were in desperate need of attention. While Bautista's best defensive days may be behind him, he would provide an adequate presence in right field.

In addition to his power numbers, Bautista's on-base percentage of .366 would also help a batting order that he would co-anchor with Morales, third baseman Josh Donaldson and shortstop Troy Tulowitzki.

Bautista had a breakout season in 2010 with 54 homers and 124 RBIs and has been one of the sport's top sluggers ever since. The Santo Domingo native also played a key role in helping the franchise return to prominence after a 22-year playoff drought.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Regretful Tomlin angry over Brown's video post

The father in Mike Tomlin regrets the language he used to describe the New England Patriots during the postgame speech Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown opted to livestream on social media after a taut playoff victory over Kansas City.

The coach in Tomlin has just as big an issue with one of his team's biggest stars forcing the Steelers to talk about something other than trying to find a way to finally beat Tom Brady when it counts.

Mike Tomlin, left, and Antonio Brown GETTY IMAGES

A characteristically blunt Tomlin called Brown's decision to broadcast to the world more than 17 minutes of Pittsburgh's giddy locker room celebration — a move that caught Tomlin using a handful of profanities — "foolish," "selfish" and "inconsiderate."

"Not only is it a violation of our policy, it's a violation of league policy, both of which he knows," Tomlin said Tuesday.

"So there are consequences to be dealt with from his perspective. We will punish him. We won't punish us."

Tomlin took responsibility for his choice of words, though he was unaware of being filmed as he spoke. During Tomlin's post-game remarks, he attached an expletive to the Patriots, who earned a full day's head start on preparing for the Steelers by virtue of beating Houston on Saturday night, 24 hours before Pittsburgh outlasted Kansas City 18-16.

"The responsibility associated with being in this thing, just from a role model standpoint, it's something that I personally embrace," Tomlin said. "It's something that we as a team and organization embrace. So that's why the language, specifically, in terms of the content, is regrettable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOCKEY IN BRIEF

Sakic, Koivu and Selanne to enter International HOF

Joe Sakic as well as Finnish stars Saku Koivu and Teemu Selanne are among five former players named Tuesday for induction into the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame.

The IIHF also announced Tuesday that German defenceman Uwe Krupp and U.S. women's star Angela Ruggiero would enter the hall along with builder Dieter Kalt of Austria. The induction ceremony is on May 21 in Germany. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Struggling NY Islanders fire coach Capuano

Stuck in last place in the Eastern Conference, the New York Islanders fired coach Jack Capuano on Tuesday, ending one of the longest tenures in the NHL.

General manager Garth Snow named assistant GM/coach Doug Weight as Capuano's interim replacement. The Islanders are 17-17-8 and their 42 points are the fewest in the East, leading to Snow making the move.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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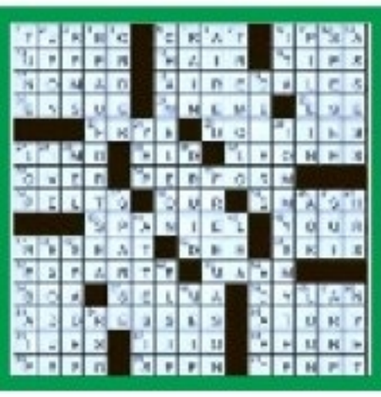

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Standing tall at Oak Hill

BASKETBALL

Nova Scotia's Wigginton making a name on grand stage

Several decades of basketball greatness can be found at the end of a two-lane, unlit highway that winds unforgivingly through the Blue Ridge Mountains in southern Virginia.

Past the Christmas tree farms, grazing cows and Baptist churches — long after cellphone service has disappeared — you'll find Oak Hill Academy and its storied Turner Gymnasium.

Modest in size but draped in history, the 400-seat gym is where the likes of Kevin Durant, Carmelo Anthony and Jerry Stackhouse once famously dominated their opponents as gifted kids.

It's also the place Nova Scotia teenager Lindell Wigginton has chosen as his launching pad with the goal of becoming the first Maritimer to play in the NBA.

"When I got here, I was kind of shocked. I thought it was going to be a big arena, because Oak Hill is such a big name," Wigginton said. "But I knew it was a powerhouse program and I just wanted to come in, and be the best player I could be."

The six-foot-two guard from Dartmouth is the first Canadian to play for tiny Oak Hill, a Baptist-affiliated co-ed boarding school of some 100 students. Fifty of those kids play on one of the basketball teams.

$35K

A year at Oak Hill costs about $35,000 US, but Wigginton is on a scholarship that covers most of that.

He was the team's top scorer last season, leading the Warriors to a 45-1 record, and a U.S. national high school title. In the championship game at Madison Square Garden, Wigginton converted a three-point play with 29 seconds left in overtime en route to a 62-60 victory over Indiana's La Lumiere.

"He's probably our best player right now," said Oak Hill's legendary head coach Steve Smith. "Lindell is a fierce competitor, you can see how he plays. He's aggressive. He doesn't mind getting hit, when he goes to the basket he wants to get hit, he wants to go to the foul line, he wants three-point plays. But he can shoot from the perimeter too, he shoots pullups, he's got the whole game."

Wigginton, 18, manages to maintain top grades in his classes despite a tough travel schedule. They'll play more than 40 games this season, travelling as far as Hawaii and California.

On Monday, the Warriors were in Springfield, Mass., playing in the Spalding HoopHall Classic at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. They dropped an 80-77 decision to Seattle's Nathan Hale High School, just their third loss this season. ESPNU broadcast the game.

"(Wigginton) is playing big-time basketball," Smith said. "At the high school level, you can't get any bigger than this."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lindell Wigginton of Dartmouth, N.S., represented Team USA at Adidas Eurocamp last June in Treviso, Italy.

SERRA/IGUANA PRESS/GETTY IMAGES FOR ADIDAS

SOCCER

Allardyce notches a win with Palace

Sam Allardyce secured his first victory as Crystal Palace manager by reaching the fourth round of the FA Cup on Tuesday.

Palace fell behind to third-tier side Bolton but two goals from substitute Christian Benteke clinched a 2-1 victory for Allardyce against the team he managed between 1999 and 2007.

Sam Allardyce

GETTY IMAGES

It ended Allardyce's five-match winless streak with Palace in all competitions.

Palace will next host Manchester City in the FA Cup, but more important for Allardyce is producing a win in the league. Palace is only out of the Premier League relegation zone due to its superior goal difference. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

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Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch chunks
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 cup panko

For the sauce:
- 1/4 cup reduced sodium soy sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp hoisin sauce
- 1 Tbsp freshly grated ginger
- 1 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tsp sesame seeds

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Lightly oil or spray a 9×13 baking dish.

2. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Working in batches, dip into egg, dredge in panko, pressing to coat. Place in baking dish. Bake until golden brown and crisp, about 15-20 minutes.

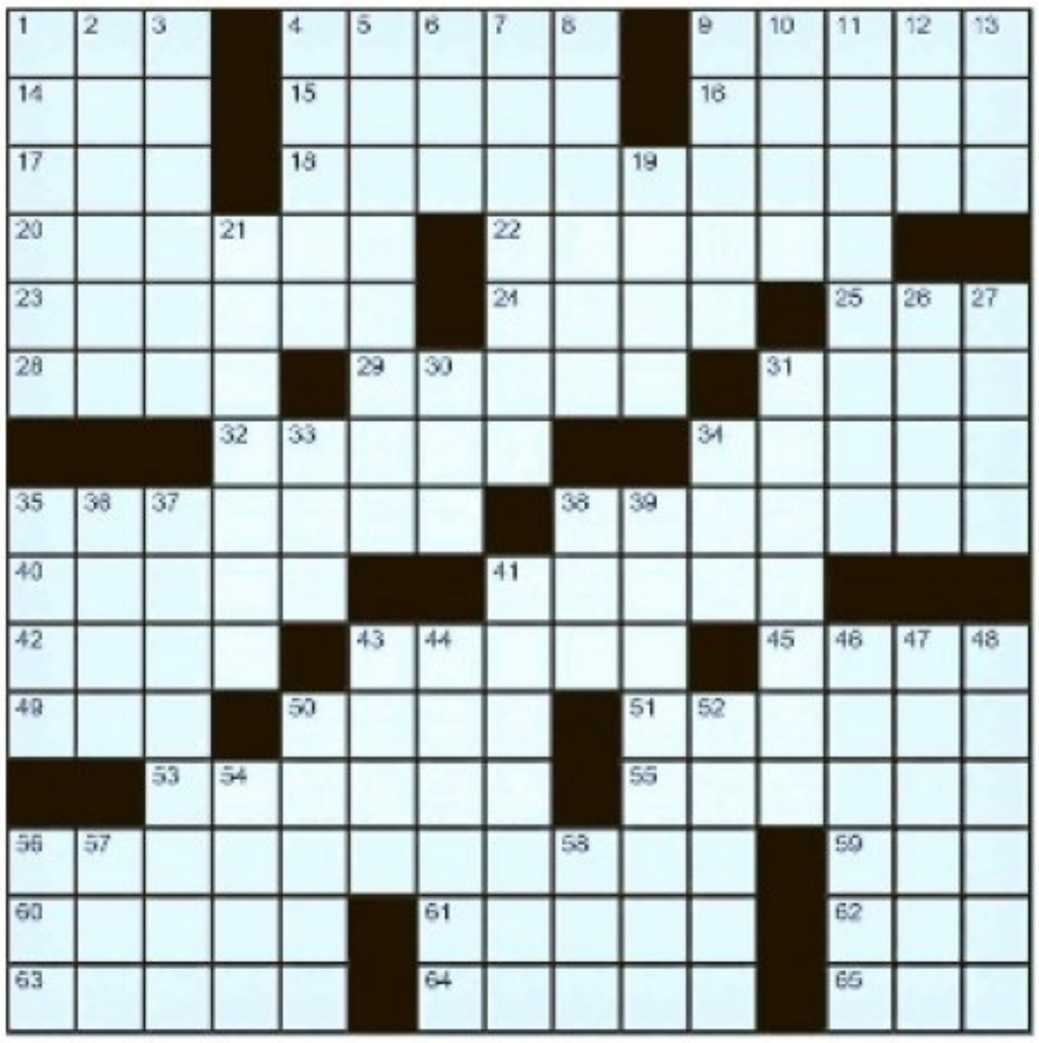
3. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine soy sauce, honey, garlic, hoisin sauce, ginger and vinegar until slightly thickened, about 2-3 minutes. Stir in chicken and gently toss to coat all chicken bites.

4. Serve immediately garnished with green onions and sesame seeds.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. High-arc shot on the court
4. Nursemaids
9. Carry on with mischief: 2 wds.
14. 'Impress' suffix
15. Historic Russian ruler
16. Thor = __ god of thunder
17. Ant & __ ("Britain's Got Talent" hosts)
18. Plane's undercarriage: 2 wds.
20. Visit a friend for coffee: 2 wds.
22. Disinclined
23. Sir __ Hillary (Everest mountaineer)
24. Eugene of "Best in Show" (2000)
25. Howe'er
28. Achiever
29. Bird of Jove
31. In-a-bowl hot serving
32. __-loading (Athlete's strategy)
34. 'Right' or 'Blue' in the ocean
35. Vivid
38. Dolores O'__ (Cranberries songstress)
40. Certain Celts
41. Prefix to 'dyne' (Toothpaste brand)
42. Stretched out circle
43. Speeds for horses
45. Provo's place
49. Sales pro
50. Like part of a triathlon
51. Ingredient in table salt, Potassium __
53. Not out/Instead in one's domain: 2 wds.
55. One experiencing astonishment
56. Newfoundland community near Gros Morne National Park: 2 wds.
59. Not new
60. Austrian pianist Mr. Schnabel
61. Loosen the laces
62. Mildly-disgusted interjection!
63. Popular tunesmith, Carole __ Sager
64. Type of car
65. Nourished

DOWN
1. Covered, as a tub of margarine
2. Train too hard
3. Get
4. __-__-one
5. Wanders
6. Ms. Jillian
7. 2004 Viggo Mortensen horse flick
8. Whine
9. Steamed
10. Sprockets
11. Arboreal amphibian: 2 wds.
12. Letters on a Bruce Springsteen album
13. Apiece
19. Canadian name from "Scream" (1996)
21. __ Mountains (Range in British Columbia)
26. __-hoop
27. Candid
30. Mr. Vigoda
31. Covers
33. Li'l response
34. Canadian writer Mr. Mitchell, et al. (b.1914 - d.1998)
35. Dr. Frankenstein's helper
36. Place for church pews
37. Canadian band which presumably might enjoy cucumber sandwiches: 2 wds.
38. Soak flax
39. Badge
41. "__ Like You" by Adele
43. Deuces
44. Commotion
46. Lead given by the insider
47. Antarctica penguin
48. Did a Border Collie's job
50. Bake, as eggs
52. Like the main ingredients in granola
54. Unfeigned
56. Apprehend
57. British singer Rita
58. "__ be my pleasure."

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Use all your powers of diplomacy and patience to deal with others today and avoid disputes and arguments. Admittedly, something unexpected will catch you off guard.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a classic day for equipment breakdowns or computer crashes at work. Be patient, because this will no doubt be frustrating. Use your Taurus diplomacy.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Parents should be vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Know where they are at all times. Be extra aware of potential hazards.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Family squabbles might erupt today because something unexpected happens. Small appliances might break down or minor breakages could occur. Have patience!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Pay attention to everything you say and do today, because this is an accidentprone day. Make an effort to avoid arguments with others. Your own mental or emotional distraction is the reason an accident might occur.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Something unexpected will affect your cash or possessions today. This could create a problem with a romantic partner or one of your kids.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's easy to get into arguments with others today, because someone might do something out of the blue. Don't get your belly in a rash. Stay chill.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Avoid power struggles with others today, because they might arise. This could be because something goes haywire at work. Patience is your best ally.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Financial disputes with a female acquaintance might ruin your day today. Tread carefully. Don't start anything that you can't finish. (Maybe it's best not to start anything!)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Arguments with bosses and parents are likely today. Because sudden detours and surprises catch people off guard, they are easily upset. This is a tough day for a lot of people.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is an accident-prone day for you, so slow down and take it easy. Don't push the river. People feel impatient and sidetracked by the unexpected today. Stay mellow.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Squabbles about shared property and shared expenses might arise today. Ideally, try to postpone these discussions for another day.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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